

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01959 071020Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BEIRUT 1959

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR LE IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: SOVIET OBSERVERS WITH UNMO

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1928, (B) BEIRUT 1920

1. FONMIN BOUTROS CALLED AT 1030 LOCAL APRIL 7 TO SAY HE HAD INSTRUCTED TUENI IN NEW YORK TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO UN SECRETARIAT THAT LEBANESE EXPECTED TO BE ASKED FOR POLITICAL CLEARANCE BEFORE UNTSO PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER TUENI HAD TALKED TO ANYONE YET, BUT IN MEANTIME GOL HAD LEARNED THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL MEANS (I ASSUME A TELEPHONE TAP) THAT UN WAS ALREADY MOVING AHEAD WITH ASSIGNMENT OF SOVIET UNMO'S TO LEBANON AND HE WONDERED HOW THEY COULD DO THAT WITHOUT CONSULTING GOL. HE ASKED IF WE COULD NOT DO SOMETHING QUICKLY. (HE DOES NOT WANT UNIFIL TO KNOW THEY HAVE THE INFO IN QUESTION.) SAID I WOULD TRY.

2. WE NOTE STATEMENT BY URQUHART IN USUN'S 1208 THAT UN MUST ASSUME FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPOSITION OF
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PEACEKEEPING FORCE. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW FIRMLY ENSHRINED THAT PRINCIPLE IS, BUT OUTWARD SIGNS INDICATE UN HAS DECIDED SHRUG OFF OUR RESERVATIONS IN THIS INSTANCE AND APPARENTLY DOES NOT INTEND TO CONSULT GOL. GIVEN SOVIET POSITION VIS-A-VIS PLO, WE CAN PROBABLY COUNT ON SOVIET OFFICERS TO DO THEIR BEST TO SABOTAGE UNIFIL OPERATION WHENEVER IT MAY BE IN CONFLICT WITH

PLO. SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH PLO LEADERS AND INFORMATION REGARDING UNIFIL INTENTIONS AND ISRAELI TROOP DISPOSITIONS WILL BE PASSED ROUTINELY TO PLO AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. ISRAELIS PRESUMABLY WILL REFUSE TO DEAL WITH SOVIETS, SO THEY WILL HAVE TO FUNCTION EXCLUSIVELY ON LEBANESE SIDE OF LINE, WHICH IS WHERE THEY CAN DO THE MOST DAMAGE ANYWAY.

3. URQUHART'S REMARK THAT IF ISRAELIS WANT UNIFIL TO CONTROL TYRE, COOPERATION WITH SOVIET BLOC MAY BE THE ONLY SOLUTION, IMPLIES THAT HE FEELS SOVIET PARTICIPATION MAY HELP RESOLVE PROBLEM THERE. WE THINK REVERSE IS PROBABLY MORE TRUE. SOVIET PRESENCE WILL STRENGTHEN PLO RESOLVE TO HOLD ITS GROUND AND WILL IMPROVE MUNITIONS-SUPPLY LIAISON BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND SOVIETS. IT MAY MAKE TROYANOVSKY HAPPIER, BUT IT WON'T HELP ON THE GROUND.

4. ONLY SUGGESTION WE HAVE IS THAT USUN TAKE SUBJECT UP WITH SECRETARIAT, NOTING THAT WE UNDERSTAND CONSIDERATION STILL BEING GIVEN TO USE OF SOVIET UNMO'S BUT THAT GOL TELLS US IT HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED ON SUBJECT AND WOULD BE QUITE DISTURBED BY THEIR INTRODUCTION HERE.

5. THIS PROBLEM POINTS UP AGAIN NEED FOR SYG TO HAVE
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A REPRESENTATIVE HERE WHO CAN DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS. PROBLEM WITH STATIONING OF GENDARMES IN SOUTH, AND ABSENCE OF LEBANESE LIAISON OFFICER FROM NAQURA ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF CRYING NEED FOR COORDINATION. THIS OPERATION CANNOT BE RUN SUCCESSFULLY FROM JERUSALEM OR NEW YORK.
PARKER

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NNN

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